Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

By now most of you are aware that Bishop Brown has suspended all public worship in the Episcopal Church in Delaware in response to Governor Carney’s recent Emergency Declaration.

It seems likely that this ban on public worship may last for some time. Bishop Brown, however, has made clear that even when on-site worship is closed to the public, the Church is never closed; and he has directed that every congregation in Delaware celebrate a single, private (not open to the public) Eucharistic
Liturgy each Sunday. In this way, the prayer and sacramental life of the Church continues, as does Immanuel Church’s long and unbroken tradition of regular worship.

In response to the Bishop’s directive, and out of a desire to include as many as possible in the regular worship and fellowship of the Church, Immanuel’s leaders and staff are exploring a number of ways to keep our community connected.

- Beginning this week, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the church at 9 am every Sunday morning. This Liturgy will be private but will be recorded; and by 10 am that same day (barring technical difficulties) the video will be posted to Immanuel’s website and Facebook page, and bulletins will be available for download. We expect to continue this pattern until the ban on public liturgies is lifted. Bulletins will be available for download.

- Bishop Brown will also celebrate a weekly Mass in the St. Albans Center, which will be live-streamed at 11 am every Sunday on the Diocesan Facebook page.

- In addition, as the Bishop has urged, we are working to divide the parish into “check-in” groups of ten households each. The purpose of these groups is to help us look after one another in a meaningful and personal way, and to make sure that every member of the community is safe and cared for. You will hear more about this in the near future.

During this uncertain time, it’s easy to forget that we, the Church, are in the season of Lent, a time in which we engage in fasting and preparation in order to grow in our relationship with God and with one another. We are now being asked to stay in close relationship with God and each other by shifting the ways that we practice community as a people of faith, hope, and love.

In the meantime, please know that we will continue to look for ways to come together and connect with one another. We are God’s beloved called to be saints, and we have the opportunity to practice our call to the saintly life in new ways. As we move together through this difficult time, remember that, no matter what—as St. Augustine so eloquently said—“God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love.”

In Christ our hope,

Fr. Keene

Here are a few resources you might find helpful:
- State of Delaware
- Episcopal Relief & Development – Faith-Based Response to Epidemics
- CDC Information on Coronavirus
- Washington State Department of Health on Coronavirus
- Washington Post – How to Prepare for the Coronavirus in the US
- CDC Pandemic Guidelines

The COVID-19 situation in Delaware and beyond continues to develop rapidly and we recognize our need to be responsible citizens and to care for the most vulnerable members of our community. To that end, we will be implementing a ministry directed at helping those who are most compromised by reason of age and/or health.
A generous group of Immanuel volunteers stand ready to pick up and deliver medications, groceries and to help fulfill other immediate needs for those who are self-quarantined or are at high risk. If you are one of these people, or know someone who is, please contact Bob Irwin at (302)354-4636 and rjirwin09@verizon.net.

We recognize that many are fearful, anxious, and concerned about their own or others’ mortality, and it is before us clearly that we are not in always in control. These feelings are normal. May we take heart and courage, remembering the scriptural admonition:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:6-7

Yours in Christ Jesus, the Great Physician,
Fr. Keene

PARISH HAPPENINGS

The In Reach Committee wishes to wish all well in these hard times. Especially remember those of us at Immanuel who, because of our essential employment, are placed in harms way. Fulfill now the petitions of thy servants as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth and in the world to come, life everlasting. Amen

Mark Bacher

The office will be functioning remotely during the week, please email immanuelonthegreen@comcast.net with any needs.

Available Flower Memorial Dates

Memorials can be a Sunday closest to a set date (such as a birthday, anniversary, or passing), or a specific Sunday in the month (such as the 1st Sunday in October), and can be recurring or one time happenings. Please contact the office on (302)328-2413, or Mark on (302)654-2562 or at mbac56@aol.com, if you would like to talk about an offering.

These Sundays are available for dedicated flower offerings:

2020
- April 19
- May 3
- May 31
- June 21
- June 28
- August 13

March Birthdays
- Week 1 - Tom Meyers, Jago Plant, Jeff Knoll
- Week 2 - Mark Bacher, Bobbette Mason
- Week 3 - B.G. Robelen, Lauren Hopper, Doe Irwin, Esther Lovlie
- Week 4 - Katie Meloro
March Anniversaries

- Week 1 - Jon and Grace Barrett

**STAY CONNECTED**

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Instagram](https://instagram.com), for memes like this one (recycled from last week, but still super important!):

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**20 SECONDS OF HAND WASHING**

**Lyrics & Prayers**

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**Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our [website](https://immanuelonthegreen.org).**

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Immanuel on the Green | 100 Harmony Street, New Castle, DE 19720

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